

# REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY & WELFARE

## Voting Members:

Brandon J. C. Elefante, Chair; Kymberly Marcos Pine, Vice Chair;  
Ikaika Anderson. Ernest Y. Martin; Trevor Ozawa;

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Committee Meeting Held  
August 22, 2017

Honorable Ron Menor  
Chair, City Council  
City and County of Honolulu

Mr. Chair:

Your Committee on Public Health, Safety and Welfare, which considered Bill 70 (2017) entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE RELATING TO SMOKING,"

introduced on July 26, 2017 and which passed first reading at the August 9, 2017 Council meeting, reports as follows:

The purpose of the Bill is to expand and clarify the current ordinances relating to smoking, including but not limited to regulating electronic smoking devices and smoking in motor vehicles.

Captain Thomas Taflinger from the Honolulu Police Department (HPD) testified that the HPD has reached out to the Counties of Kaua'i and Hawai'i to discuss their enforcement of similar ordinances. Captain Taflinger indicated that HPD does not believe there will be any significant problems with enforcement if the ordinance is enacted.

Your Committee received testimony from 14 individuals in support of the Bill, four individuals in opposition to the Bill, and one individual offering comments on the Bill.

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## CITY COUNCIL

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU  
HONOLULU, HAWAII

ADOPTED ON

**SEP 06 2017**

COMMITTEE REPORT NO. **308**



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Your Committee also received testimony on the Bill from the following institutions, organizations and governmental agencies:

1. Virginia Pressler, Director, State of Hawaii Department of Health (support)
2. Lila Johnson, Public Health Educator, Tobacco Prevention and Control Section, Primary Prevention Branch, Hawaii State Department of Health (support)
3. Jaylen Murakami, Advocacy and Outreach Coordinator, Hawaii Public Health Institute (support)
4. Sally Ancheta, Hawaii Public Health Institute/Coalition for Tobacco-Free Hawaii - East Hawaii Community Coalition Coordinator
5. Don Weisman, Hawaii Government Relations/Communications Director, American Heart Association (support)
6. Valerie Chang, Executive Director, Hawaii COPD Coalition (support)
7. Michael Robinson, Vice President, Government Relations & Community Affairs, Hawaii Pacific Health (support)

Your Committee notes that exposure to harmful chemicals from second-hand smoke in a car can be 10 times the amount considered hazardous by the Environmental Protection Agency. The Hawai'i State Department of Health noted that tobacco smoke is a toxic contaminant and that passive smoke exposure in a confined space, such as inside a car, is particularly harmful, and children are more vulnerable. Tobacco smoke can increase morbidity and mortality in children and can lead to, among other things, respiratory infections, sudden infant death syndrome, ear infections, and more severe asthma. Studies in Hawai'i have shown that there is high rate of exposure to youth, with 16% of middle school children and 18% of high school students reporting being exposed to second-hand smoke in cars in the past week.

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Council Chair Menor discussed the necessity of strong societal support to protect children from second-hand smoke and indicated that this Bill was consistent with other City ordinances that banned smoking in parks, on beaches and at bus stops. Councilmember Martin had some concerns about the Bill but, after speaking to an individual whose family had been directly impacted by second-hand smoke in a car, decided to support the Bill for the sake of children who are exposed to second-hand smoke in cars. Councilmember Anderson indicated that he is also in support of the Bill because he felt that children are the most vulnerable in that confined space.

Your Committee on Public Health, Safety and Welfare is in accord with the intent and purpose of Bill 70 (2017) and recommends that it pass second reading, be scheduled for a public hearing, and be referred back to Committee. (Ayes: Elefante, Anderson, Martin, Pine – 4; Noes: None; Excused: Ozawa - 1.)

Respectfully submitted,

  
Committee Chair

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